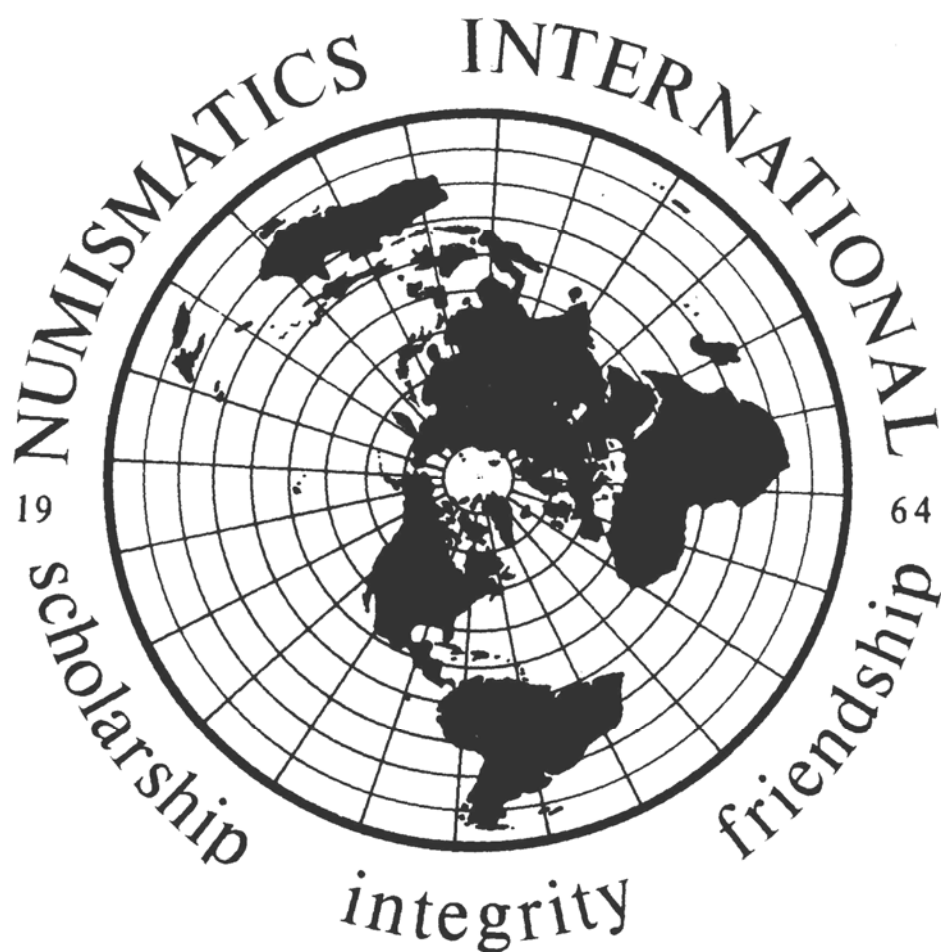


# NI Bulletin

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In this edition we offer a large number of articles to our readers over a wide range of topics. For African coins we have an article from Paul Baker concerning The Gambia. Also for Africa we have a short article (CNG) touching on the Axumite kingdom and (Goldberg) "Trade Coins of the Gold Coast."

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For Asia we have articles on Japanese paper money and another short article from CNG on German New Guinea, the popular bird of paradise coin. European coins and medals are represented with articles on Russia, Spain and England. Both North and South America are represented with articles. We have an article from Mark McMenamin about the Hermosillo mint in Mexico. Ignacio Henao appears in our magazine for the first time with an article on a rare Colombian medal and your editor has an article on Colombian cobs. All continents except Australia and Antarctica are represented.

Herman Blanton



### Membership Report

The following persons have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by November 1, 2008 the memberships are effective that day.

- 2708 Jorge Restrepo, Calle 5E #35A-101, Catay 3-530, Medellín, Colombia  
(Colombian coinage).  
LM140 Joe Lasser, 22 Glenbrooke Dr., White Plains, NY 10605-5008 (North and  
South American colonial coinage).



### Letter to the Editor

**Francis Besseney writes:** The brief article in NI Bulletin (Vol. 43, Nos. 5/6) barely gives justice to the 600-year history of the Kremnica Mint. It was the principal mint in Hungary, recognized by its mintmark K-B (*Kormoc Banya*, i.e., Kormoc Mine in Hungarian).

After World War I, the treaty of Versailles dismembered Hungary: 2/3 of its land and population was distributed to the successor states. The northern part of Hungary became part of the newly created Czechoslovakia. After some 70 years Czechoslovakia was split in two, and the Slovak Republic was created.

Kormoc Banya of course also changed hands.

The article correctly mentions the high quality of the K-B coins. During the reign of King Matthias I of Hungary (1458-90) his ducats were accepted throughout Europe. The design of the Madonna with child in her arms, adorned Hungarian coinage for some 500 years.

Kormoc Banya is also known for its St. George medals showing St. George slaying the dragon and freeing a kneeling maiden, with Christ calming the waves from a boat with the apostles on the reverse.





## **NI Educational Programs International Paper Money Show**

For the first time in Memphis, the Numismatics International Education Program Moderator, Howard A. Daniel III, manned a club table for NI (and IBNS, NBS & PCF) at the International Paper Money Show (June 27-28, 2008). He will continue to reserve a table at this show for the foreseeable future. The three-day show attracted dealers and collectors from around the world: 175 dealers had tables and many more walked the bourse.



**Howard and Phung Thi Daniel**

The show had almost 150 cases of exhibits. This is a large number of exhibits for any show! With the show dedicated to paper money, there were very few coins or tokens for exhibit or for sale. But many NI members also collect paper money and several of them showed up at the club table to identify themselves. All of them received NI pins for their shirts to advertise NI to the public and the dealers. Many NI Bulletins were also given to members and to non-members.

There is not yet an NI meeting at this show but Howard attended the Society of Paper Money Collectors breakfast, International Bank Note meeting, and the Military Money Collectors Club meeting. He also gave out 71 packets with a banknote and coins. Each packet also had a flyer about NI and the other organizations Howard represents. There were very few young and new collectors at the show so Howard asked all persons coming to the table if they had a child, grandchild, niece or nephew, and gave them a packet for each child in their families.

Please contact Howard at [HADaniel3@msn.com](mailto:HADaniel3@msn.com) if you have any questions about this show or donations of coins, paper money and/or references for distributing at future shows.

## A Closer Look at the Coins of The Gambia

Paul Baker, NI #2615



**Image 1**  
**The Gambian 1966 2 Shillings**

The Gambia, one of the smaller nations in West Africa, gained independence in 1965. The following year the country introduced its own coinage. The first series of Gambian coins were a pre-decimal series comprising 1 Penny, 3 Pence, 6 Pence, 1 Shilling, 2 Shillings, oddly 4 Shillings and surprisingly 8 Shillings. All were dated 1966, except the 8 Shillings, issued later and dated 1970. All types have the Arnold Machin portrait of Elizabeth II, with country name "THE GAMBIA" and date on the obverse. The 1966 coins feature a set of realistic designs by Michael Rizzello, who also put forward designs for the 8 Shillings coin. However, the design finally used for this type was one that had been provided by Spink & Son. They were the distributors for the 8 Shillings outside of The Gambia. From Penny to 8 Shillings these designs are a sailing vessel, a Double-spurred Francolin (a type of pheasant native to Africa), some Peanuts, an Oil Palm, an African Domestic Ox, a Slender-snouted Crocodile and a bathing Hippopotamus respectively. This artwork, with the exception of that on the 8 Shillings type, was to see further use on all of the Gambian decimal circulation coins, though not in quite the same order. On this series, the designs include the denomination numeral in western numerals and the denomination name in English. Added to this are Arabic inscriptions for the full denomination in both Wolof and Mandinka languages on just the 4 Shillings and the 8 Shillings. Much of Gambia's population is comprised of Wolof and Mandinka peoples.



**Image 2**  
**The Gambian 1966 4 Shillings**

The Arabic script on the 4 Shillings says "*dalasi*" and "*dérém*"; these words are each derived from the word "Dirham."

According to a section of the website of the Central Bank of The Gambia (<http://www.cbg.gm>), by 1880, silver coins, mainly French 5 Franc types, were in general use in the country. The replacement of those various coins with British coins began in 1892. At that time the official exchange rate of French Francs to British Shillings was 5 Francs to a penny or two short of 4 Shillings. So it would seem that around this time the local names for 5 Francs (i.e., "dalasi" in the Mandinka language and "dérém" in the Wolof language) were adopted in The Gambia as names for an amount of 4 Shillings. Wolof people in neighboring Senegal continue to use the word "dérém" as a name for an amount of 5 Francs of their own currency.



**Image 3**  
**The Gambian 1970 8 Shillings**

The Arabic script on the 8 Shillings coins says "dalasi *fula*" (Mandinka) and "dérém *nyaar*" (Wolof). Note the addition of a word for "two" in each case as compared to the 4 Shillings type. The natural next highest denomination from 1 Dalasi/Dérém chosen for a special issue coin was 2 Dalasi/Dérém and that brought about this rare occurrence of a coin of eight Shillings. The last time a coin of this value had been issued was in Scotland, and those coins were only issued for a short while during 1581. My source for that info was page 141 of the June 1970 issue of "Coin Monthly," which was detailing the then new issue of the Gambian 8 Shillings. That same source also said of the new coin that: "It is also the first coin with a hippopotamus since the time of Philip I who, in AD 248, to commemorate 1,000 years of Rome, commanded a special circus of wild animals which were represented on the coins of that year."



**Image 4**  
**The Gambian 1971 25 Bututs**

The Gambia became a republic in 1970. The following year the country moved to a decimal currency system. The first decimal coins were dated 1971 and were introduced on 1st July 1971. The "Dalasi" had been chosen as the new unit of account, and it remained equivalent to four Shillings of the country's pre-decimal system. This was in contrast to other Commonwealth countries that ceased to use the

denomination Pound upon decimalization—it seems that they all adopted a new currency unit equal to ten of their pre-decimal Shillings. For example in Rhodesia, Australia and New Zealand this unit was a Dollar; in Malawi and Zambia a Kwacha; in South Africa a Rand and in Nigeria a Naira. For the decimal system, the Dalasi was divided into 100 Bututs. "Butut" is from the Wolof word "*butuut*" which means "something small".

The Gambia's first decimal series comprised 6 denominations: 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 Bututs and 1 Dalasi. The obverse of each of these coins features the portrait of the then president Dawda Jawara, the country title "REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA" and the date. The reverses for this series all include wildlife designs as previously used for the pre-decimal coins. On each type the reverse also includes the denomination in western numerals and the denomination name in both English and in Arabic script. The word "butuut" is included in Arabic script on the 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 Bututs coins. The word "dérém" (Wolof language for "Dalasi") in Arabic script is included on the 1 Dalasi coin, just as it had appeared on the 4 Shillings coins. Some 1 Butut coins were made with the Arabic script replaced by the motto "FOOD FOR MANKIND." Some of those particular 1 Butut coins were dated 1985. The only later first series decimal coins were the 1 Dalasi coins with date 1987. Those 1 Dalasi coins were not large and round like those dated 1971 but were smaller and had seven rounded sides. The new size and shape for the 1 Dalasi was to be used again on the 1998 series.



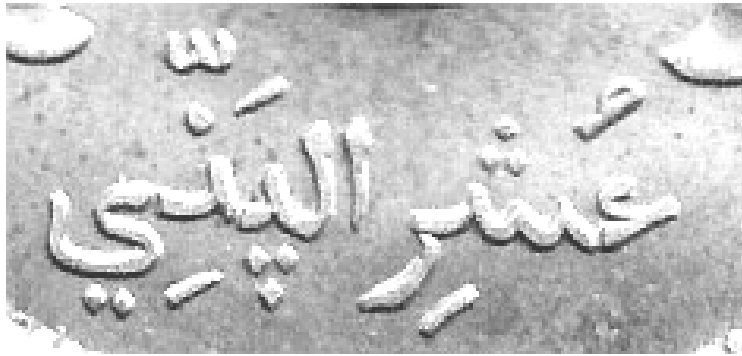
**Image 5**  
**The Gambian 1998 1 Dalasi**

The Gambia's most recent coins, the 1998 dated series, are effectively their second series of decimal coins. The obverse of each coin features the Gambian coat of arms, the country title "REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA" and the date. These coins are otherwise as per the first series coins, although the 1998 coins of 1, 5 and 10 Bututs are made of plated steel. This was the first use of such material for Gambian coinage.

In September 2005, the 1998 series of coins got a mention in a low-profile news story in both the U.K. and The Gambia. A retired sales director from the British Royal Mint stood trial for conspiracy because he had allegedly received a large payment from an employee of the Central Bank of The Gambia. One report on the trial mentioned that the alleged conspiracy to defraud the Royal Mint occurred during the period 1996 to 2001 and involved a contract for the minting of 40 million coins. I can only deduce that this must relate to the six-coin series of 1998 Gambian coins. Another report made mention of The Birmingham Mint. Presumably that mint had been involved as a sub-contractor for the British Royal Mint. The defendant in the case was cleared. However, at the time, even the thought of something like this

getting to court was quite interesting.

The Gambia had become a British colony in 1888. As mentioned earlier, the use of British coins there had started in 1892. That was followed around 1912 by the introduction of British West African coins. These coins were of denominations 1/10 Penny, 1/2 Penny, 1 Penny, 3 Pence, 6 Pence, 1 Shilling and 2 Shillings and were issued by the West African Currency Board from 1908 until 1958. These coins were issued for general circulation in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana and The Gambia. The coins of the three lowest denominations of the British West African coinage series, in common with some of the Gambian coins, include denominations written in Arabic. The denominations appear in English as ONE TENTH OF A PENNY, ONE HALFPENNY and ONE PENNY.



**Image 6**

**The Arabic words for "One tenth of a Penny" on a British West African Coin**

The Arabic equivalent of the full denomination, e.g., "one tenth of a penny," also appears on each coin, again using numbers written as words rather than with numerals.

<sup>1</sup> /10 Penny	عشر ايلنى	(°uṣr ulpannī)
<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> Penny	نصف پنى	(nisaf pannī)
Penny	واحد پنى	(wāḥid pannī)

**Figure 1**

**The Arabic script as used on the three lowest denomination coins of British West Africa**

The text and script above show the Arabic words that appear on the coin types of each of these three denominations and how the words used can be transliterated with the help of a few additional small symbols. These inscriptions for the denominations are as per the above on the Nigerian Halfpenny and Penny coins of 1959 (KM #1 and KM #2). In fact there are a number of similarities between those two types and the

corresponding British West Africa coins. The coins detailed here are the only world coins to show the word "Penny" in Arabic.

Thanks to Harald Müller (Switzerland) for the image of Arabic script in Figure 1.



## **Ethiopia, Axumite Kingdom**

### **CNG**

The kingdom of Axum, located along the Red Sea of modern Ethiopia, is exceptional in that it was the only sub-Saharan African state in antiquity that issued coinage. As with many other remote states which issued coins, Axum was located along a trade route, with its particular route linking India and southern Arabia with Rome by way of Egypt. Very little is known about Axum, and the order of its kings can only be assigned to chronological groupings. The prosperity of the kingdom fueled an expansion that at times would encompass portions of southern Arabia and areas further inland in Africa. At some point, probably in the AD 330s, the Axumite king Ezanas converted to Christianity, which became the state religion, making Axum the second ancient state, after Armenia, to adopt Christianity. There are also possible links between Axum and Biblical Judaea, and an enduring legend is that, to save it from destruction at the hands of the Babylonians, king Menelek I, the son of king Solomon of Israel and Makeda, Queen of Sheba, secretly moved the Ark of the Covenant to his kingdom in Ethiopia (Axum), where it supposedly rests today in a "treasury" near the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Our Lady Mary of Zion. The kingdom appears to have waned in the seventh century AD, coinciding with the advent of Islam. Although Axum was soon surrounded by Islamic states, it coexisted peacefully among them thereafter.



KINGS of AXUM (Aksum). Nezool. Circa AD 450-500. AV 17mm, 1.58 g. +QEOVC EVXLPICITIL, crowned and draped bust right, holding branch, framed by grain ears / +BACIL-EVC NEZOWL, draped bust right, wearing headcloth, holding branch, framed by two grain ears. Munro-Hay Type 82; cf. BMC Aksum 401.



**A Rare Colombian Medal  
From our Country to its Liberators  
Ignacio Henao**



***La Patria á sus Libertadores (enlarged 1.5×)***

Medal awarded, on July 20th, 1873, to heroes of the War of Independence who were still alive.

At the auction held by *Subastas Antioqueñas* in Medellín, Colombia, on October 20th, 2007, I had the good fortune of becoming the owner of this rare Colombian silver medal, which weighs 19.7 g and is 34.5 mm in diameter. The obverse die for this medal, which bears the legend "*La Patria a sus libertadores - 20 de julio de 1873*" (From our Country to its Liberators – July 20th, 1873) is found in the die collection of the Colombian central bank (*Banco de la República*), which undoubtedly indicates that it was minted in the Bogotá mint. Slight marks on the edge of my medal, indicate the probable existence of a former loop.

Upon researching the origin of the medal, I discovered that as part of the 20th of July celebrations in 1873, the national heroes that were still alive were awarded silver medals specially minted for the occasion. The award ceremonies took place in the capital city as well as in those provinces in which the heroes resided. This is narrated by historian Eduardo Posada in his book *Numismática Colombiana*, a bibliographic rarity, the first volume of which is dedicated to medals and badges. The book was first published in 1937, with a second edition in 1938, both by the Imprenta Nacional in Bogotá. Due to the amount of information given by Posada for each piece described in this book, it is a pity the other volumes were never published.

Posada does not say how many medals were minted, but there were probably not many participants of the independence war, which took place from 1810 to 1819, who were still alive in 1873, especially in those days in which life expectancy was so much lower than that of today. Posada was not able to find the list of those who were honored in Bogotá. Nevertheless, governors were commissioned to honor the heroes living in their provinces and six medals were sent out to the province of Antioquia.

The medals were awarded to Braulio Henao, José María Botero, Francisco Giraldo, Joaquín Montoya, Andrés Alzate and Francisco Villa.

Nine medals were sent out to the province of Cauca, one of which was awarded to General Mosquera at his estate in Coconuco; two others were awarded to Francisco Uscátegui and Custodio Rivera in the city of Pasto; another one to Mariano Mosquera in the city of Popayán; likewise one in Cartago to Anselmo Soto; one in Buenaventura to Federico de Cros; one in Buga to José Antonio Concha; and another in an uncited place to Francisco Aguilar. Posada did not know who received the ninth medal.

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*NI*

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### **Kushan Empire Huvishka's Occupation of Kashmir CNG**

The rare Victory type stands out among the dinars of Huvishka, precisely because it contradicts all that we know about the pacific reign of that Kushan king. Huvishka's father, Kanishka, was the great conqueror, adding most of northern India to his realm. The only campaign associated with Huvishka was the occupation of Kashmir, which may have taken place in the last years of his father's rule. Huvishka was a devout Buddhist, and most of the records of his time are concerned with his donations to monasteries, temples and foundations for helping the poor. He was not by any measure a warrior king. In the absence of a specific event that might have prompted the striking of the Victory type, we can only suggest that the Kushans may have adopted the type from Roman aurei that made their way eastward in the trade network that provided much of the wealth of the Kushan kingdom. Compare, for example, the aureus of Marcus Aurelius, RIC 193, struck 168 AD.



[Ancient] INDIA, Kushans. Huvishka I. Circa AD 152-192. AV Dinar, 7.91 g. Crowned and diademed bust left on clouds, flames over shoulders, holding mace sceptre and spear / Nike, nimbed, advancing right, holding palm and wreath; tamgha to left. MK 246 (same dies as example 1); Donum Burns -; MACW -; CNG 66, lot 967 (same dies). Among the rarest of Huvishka's gold dinars.

*NI*



## Half-real Coins of Santa Fe de Bogotá, 1627

Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

The Spanish Colonial cities of Santa Fe (*de Bogotá*) and Cartagena (*de las Indias*) are in modern-day Colombia. The mints of these two cities are closely linked as both were started and operated by the same person, Alonso Turrillo de Yebra. Technically, Cartagena was a sub-mint of Santa Fe even though it opened before Santa Fe. As I stated in a prior article, "Half-Real Coins of Cartagena of the Indies,"<sup>1</sup> the identification and classification of Spanish half-real coins is an open topic as it is not thoroughly examined yet. In this present article I intend to show the first issues of half-real coins from Santa Fe and to link them with the Cartagena issue, positively identifying certain half-real coins as Santa Fe issues. For reference, the half real had a specified mass of 134 pieces per mark, which is approximately 1.72 grams per coin.

Turrillo established the sub-mint of Cartagena in 1621 and produced coins dated 1621 and 1622. Due to difficulties (mostly local opposition) in Cartagena, he transferred the mint operation in 1622 to Santa Fe. He produced a limited coinage there, again facing local opposition, then ceased operations and left for Spain the same year. In my opinion the 1622 coins produced in Santa Fe are indistinguishable from those produced in Cartagena.

Of the various types of coins produced during the initial operations, 1621-2, our interest here is limited to coins of assayer "A" and especially to the single known Cartagena half real. Assayer F (or E possibly) coins are distinctly different and not discussed in this article. It is important for this study to be aware that Turrillo was authorized to produce coins in denominations from quarter real up to two escudos;<sup>2</sup> however, the census of known assayer A coins includes only quarter real, half real, four real and eight real. Missing are one and two real coins as well as gold coins. It appears that Turrillo's primary interest was in coining the billon quarter-real coin in Cartagena as this produced the greatest profit and he was in contract with the king to specially make these coins. The coins he produced in "coin silver" (0.93055), that we know of, are only the larger two denominations, four and eight real, which presumably would have been more profitable to make than the smaller half real, one and two real coins.

Turrillo stopped production in 1622, sailed for Spain on mint-related business and returned to Cartagena in 1625. His trip back to Spain must have been horrific, because he sailed on the 1622 fleet which was disastrously struck by a hurricane. Turrillo survived the hurricane, but some, if not most, of his coin mintage was lost among the shipwrecks which include the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, the *Santa Margarita* and an unidentified wreck today salvaged as the "Dry-Tortugas."

Upon Turrillo's return to Cartagena in 1625, the mint re-opened and continued in operation until closing in 1635, then briefly re-opened again circa 1655. In 1627 Turrillo opened the Santa Fe mint which remained in operation until modern times.

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<sup>1</sup> *Numismatics International Bulletin*, Vol. 43, Number 7/8 (July/August 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Friede, Juan, *Documentos Sobre la Fundación de la Casa de Moneda en Santa Fe de Bogotá (1614-1635)*, *Conservados en el Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, Transcritos y Anotados* (Bogotá: Banco de la República, 1963), document 4, pp. 52-61

The Spanish Colonial territory that included Cartagena and Santa Fe was called "Nuevo Reino de Granada," which translates as "New Kingdom of Granada." "Granada" is Spanish for "pomegranate," which is a symbol associated with Colombia. Most of the coinage produced in Santa Fe carries the mint mark "NR" which is the abbreviation for Nuevo Reino.

Barriga records that Turrillo did not use the existing Santa Fe foundry for his mint and did not build a mint building either; instead he operated out of a private house, the site upon which a mint building would later be built. The royal scribe maintained mint records in his books. Book number one begins with the sign of the cross (presumably indicating the scribe's responsibility to record true information) and the first entry, signifying the beginning of mint operations.

*Libro de Estacio Sanguinol Rangel escrivano del Rey mío Señor y de su Real casa de moneda de la ciudad de Santa Fe del Nuevo Reino de Granada de las yndias que se comenco atreinta de Abril de mil y seiscientos y veinte y siete años siendo tesorero della el capitán Alonso turrillo de yebra en el que está la cuenta y razón de las entriegas de oro y plata que se labra en la dicha casa. Estacio Sanguinol Rangel. S<sup>o</sup> de su Mag. Año de 1627 a 30 de Abril.*<sup>3</sup>

Book of Estacio Sanguinol Rangel secretary of the King my Lord and of his Royal mint of the city of Santa Fe in the New Kingdom of Granada of the Indies, which began the thirtieth of April in the year one thousand and six hundred and twenty-seven. Captain Alonso Turrillo de Yebra, being the treasurer, is to carefully account for the deliveries of gold and silver processed in the house. Estacio Sanguinol Rangel. His Majesty's Secretary. April 30, 1627.

The first silver coins were issued 6 June 1627, having been produced from 267 marks, 2 ounces of silver. Barriga says they were eight-real coins, but the cited document which he both transcribed and photographed does not say that. It says merely "coins," so Barriga had other documentation which he did not cite, or he made an error, and we don't know which denominations were issued that day.

*...en presencia de mi el escibano, se contó la moneda que resultó de doscientos y sesenta y siete marcos y dos onzas de la que se entregó...y de que se hizo encerramiento...ciento sesenta y dos real...*<sup>4</sup>

...in the presence of me the secretary, was counted the money (coins) resulting from two hundred sixty seven marks and two ounces that was received...and from that was sealed...one hundred sixty two real...

In order to "seal" (for later testing) 162 reals, some of the coins must not have been eight real, or else the 162 reals is a value determined from weighing, not counting. Consider that this was the *first* issue of silver coins, so it was not possible to commingle these with other pieces minted earlier.

---

<sup>3</sup> Barriga Villaba, A.M., *Historia de la Casa de Moneda* (Bogotá: Banco de la Republica, 1969) Vol.1:44-6.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 48-50.

Before examining the Santa Fe half-real coins we need to reference the single known Cartagena half real of 1622 which was described in detail in my article mentioned earlier.



**Figure 1**  
**Cartagena billon half real, 1622 RN-A (image enlarged)**

In linking this 1622 coin with Santa Fe coins of 1627 we focus our attention on the letters R, N and on the lion. The punches for these devices were also used at Santa Fe in 1627. Another attribute to note for the 1622 Cartagena issues is the use of the circle line used when making the dies. This can be seen on the coin above (left image) enclosing the shield and RN, A. This line aided the placement of devices and the peripheral legend when punching the die.



**Figure 2**  
**Santa Fe half-real coins of 1627**



Jorge Proctor

**Figure 3**

**Style 1: Santa Fe half real, 16(27) NR, 16 mm diameter, 1.4 gram**

**Obverse:** PHILIPPVS monogram separating date with 16 to left and an assumed 27 to the right. Mint mark NR beneath, all enclosed by open circle of dots (pearls); Crown above monogram. Along the periphery should be the legend "●PHILIPPVS●IIII●D●G●" of which can be seen only a small part.

**Reverse:** Cross with lions and castles in correct order, all enclosed by undetermined style of circle. The peripheral legend is not visible, but presumably would read "●HISPANIARVM●REX" with the first ["stop"] "●" possibly a cross or floret.

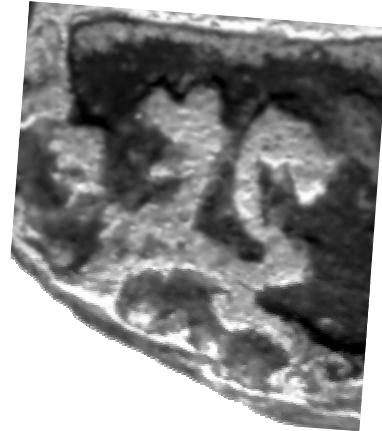
This coin was discovered in Panama and came to my attention in 2007; it is a most intriguing piece. This is the only Santa Fe cob coin known, of any denomination, which has the date separated in the coin design. The date is separated by the PHILIPPVS monogram, 16 to the left and presumably 27 to the right. It seems reasonable to infer that this style was produced in 1627 only, and was the first style in 1627. As we will see below, there are other styles of 1627 half reals from which the "standard" Santa Fe style emerged.

The "NR" below the monogram is the mintmark for Santa Fe (NR is designated in the documentation as the mintmark for Santa Fe; it stands for Nuevo Reino). I carefully compared the NR letters with Potosí coins of assayer M (in case the letters were MP instead of NR) and am convinced this coin is not Potosí. The most important diagnostic feature of this coin is the lion punch; it is the same one used in the 1622 Cartagena half real, and so this punch survived the difficulties encountered by Turrillo during the turbulent early years. Notice traces of an alignment ring located from the 16 of the date up to the crown along the ring of dots; this is a typical feature of Cartagena assayer "A" coins. Therefore, for these reasons, this coin must have been produced by Turrillo.

## Linking Cartagena with Santa Fe Style 1



**Figure 4a**



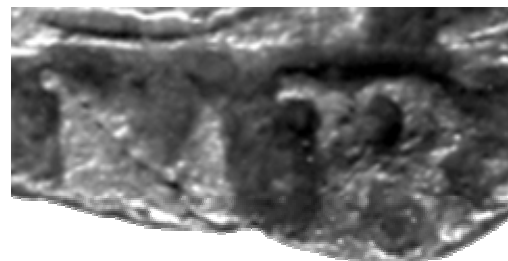
**Figure 4b**

### **Lion punch comparison**

The image on the left is from the Cartagena half real illustrated in Figure 1 and the image on the right is from the Santa Fe half real illustrated in Figure 3. The small differences noticeable are likely due to the depth of the impression of the punch made into the die, or else the strike of the coin. The Cartagena piece is more shallow than the Santa Fe piece. It is important and fair to advise the reader that I have not personally examined either of these coins or any of the coins illustrated in this article.



**Figure 5a**



**Figure 5b**

### **Letters N and R punch comparison**

( 4a & 5a from figure 1, 4b & 5b from figure 3)

The "N" and "R" punches are identical. The enlargement shows the letters as "NR" and not "MP," which would be the alternate possibility if the coin was from Potosí.



Jorge Becerra

Figure 6a (top coin), 6b (bottom coin)

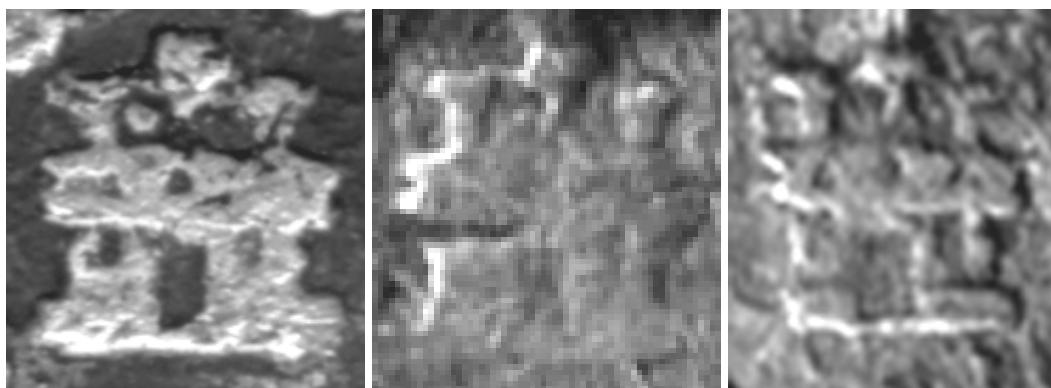
Style 2: Santa Fe half real, 1627 mintmark N, left, assayer mark P, right

**Obverse:** PHILIPPVS monogram with mintmark "N" to left (visible in Figure 6a) and assayer mark "P" to right all enclosed by open circle of dots. The assayer is Miguel Pinto Camargo, who worked as assayer at Santa Fe for precisely five years, from 22 April 1627 until he died on 22 April 1632.<sup>5</sup> Crown above. It is possible that there is an obscured letter beneath the mintmark N; if so, it would necessarily be the letter R, combined to form NR, for Nuevo Reino. None of the peripheral legend is visible on either coin, but it should read "●PHILIPPVS●IIII●D●G●."

**Reverse:** Cross with castles and lions in correct order. The peripheral legend should read "●HISPANIARVM●REX●1627," none of which is visible in figure 6a except the important date at 3 and 4 o'clock. Figure 6b shows the important final two digits of the date, 27, and the HI of HISPANIARVM. Notice that there is no inner circle separating the cross from the peripheral legend. When the "standard" design emerged, it did not have the inner ring on either the obverse or the reverse.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 56.

## Linking Santa Fe Style 1 with Style 2



**Figure 7a (from Figure 3), 7b (from Figure 6a) and 7c (from Figure 6b)**

The castles on all three of these coins were made from the same punch, linking the three coins to the same mint, Santa Fe. The dot between towers in the left image is not present on the other two coins, apparently an artifact of the die not associated with the castle punch.



Ponterio & Associates

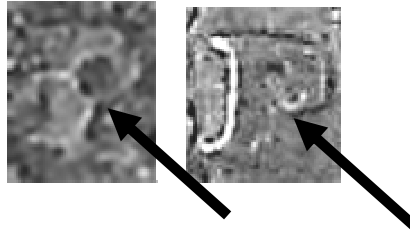
**Figure 8**

**Style 3: Santa Fe half real, 1627, no mintmark, assayer mark "P" left of monogram**

**Obverse:** Same as Figure 6, except assayer mark "P" is left of monogram, the mintmark not visible (apparently not included in the design). The obverse legend should read "●PHILIPPVS●IIII●D●G●"; the visible part, from 8 o'clock to 10 o'clock, reads "IIII●D●G●."

**Reverse:** Cross with castles and lions in reverse order, all enclosed within a circle of dots (pearls); this circle is missing on the coins in Figure 6. The peripheral legend should read "●HISPANIARVM●REX●1627," of which "X●1627●H" is visible from 8 o'clock to 12 o'clock. The date, when present and visible, on later coins is normally at 10 o'clock, as it is on this coin.

### Linking Santa Fe Styles 2 and 3



**Assayer mark "P" from Figure 6b (left) and Figure 8 (right)**

With the general design so similar, both having the "P" mark, and with the assayer P punch comparison (both have weak area), I link this coin with figure 6. The lions and castles are from different punches than the coins illustrated earlier.



**Figure 9**  
**Style 3: Santa Fe half real, 1627, no mintmark, assayer mark "P" left of monogram**

**Obverse:** As Figure 8 except visible in peripheral legend is "ILI" of PHILIPPVS.

**Reverse:** Same as Figure 8 except castle and lion punches are different. Notice the lion punches are broken: the lion in the top-left quadrant has lost his lower jaw and in the lower right quadrant has lost most of his head. Many later Santa Fe half reals have lions made from damaged punches.

### Concluding commentary

The first year of production at Santa Fe included a variety of styles for the half-real coins. In this article I began with the Cartagena half real and successively linked additional half-real coins chiefly by punches for the castles and lions. I chose not to assign numbers, as Dr. Restrepo has already assigned catalog "type" numbers in his catalog *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006*. Except for style 1 above, which is a new



discovery, all of the Santa Fe half reals in this article are type M16. The Cartagena coin is type M15.

For years I had considered the coin illustrated in Figure 8 as an uncertain attribution and it was the major difficulty in my attributing similar coins to Santa Fe. This is because the coin has such an artistic execution in its design, which is uncommon on the Colombian half real, and because the letter P did not and does not represent the mint. If a single mark is used, it should be for the mint, "N," as it is on some other Santa Fe half reals. Admittedly the consensus of cob specialists was to attribute it to Santa Fe, but I was not convinced. There is a pervasive tendency to attribute half reals as Santa Fe merely because the P & S of the monogram touch, as it does on this coin, but this is not conclusive (the subject for another article). The artistic design with the rings of dots inside the peripheral legend on both the obverse and reverse is unusual for Santa Fe half reals; actually the design hints of Lima and Potosí. After conducting this study, however, I am thoroughly convinced it is Santa Fe.

The possibility remains open that the Santa Fe half real that I classified as Style 1 may not be dated 1627. However, unless another coin appears, is recognized and proves otherwise, the date 1627 is my best determination.

Images are not shown actual size.

My thanks, in alphabetical order, to Aureo Subastas, Jorge Becerra, Alexander Montaña, Ponterio & Associates and Jorge Proctor for use of their images.

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**Kushan Empire**  
**Samudra, Usurper under Samudragupta**  
CNG

This "usurper" is unknown apart from his coins. Based on stylistic incongruities with traditional Kushan numismatic iconography (cf. MK 599), the use of ad hoc mints, rather than the usual sites employed by others, and the use of "Samudra", Göbl argued for a field commander striking on behalf of Samudragupta in a region which had not yet been incorporated into the Gupta realm, but where Kushan dinars would have been the accepted currency.



[Ancient] INDIA, Kushans. "Samudra". Circa AD 350-375. AV Dinar 7.57 g. Samudra standing facing, holding staff, sacrificing over altar to left; tamgha to inner left, "Samudra" in Brahmi to inner right; symbol to outer right / Ardoxsho seated facing, holding investiture garland with bands and cornucopiae. MK 611; Donum Burns 813 ("*Maiores domus*"); MACW 3601-3604 (Gadakhara).

*NI*

## St. Barbara and the Engineers' Corps

Bob Forrest, NI #2382

Having dealt with St. Barbara in a previous article ("St. Barbara and the Guardian Angel" in *NI Bulletin*, February 2000, pp. 52-3) I need say little more about her here other than to remind readers that, on account of her imprisonment in a high tower, she came often to be regarded as the patron saint of architects, stonemasons and bricklayers, as well as the special protector of fortifications.



The imposing bronze Italian medal shown here actual size has, on its reverse, a very striking image of St. Barbara holding her model tower. Its obverse shows what I at first took to be an aerial view of the Castel Sant' Angelo in Rome, seen from above the end of the famous Ponte Sant'Angelo. But on closer inspection, some of the details didn't look quite right, and so perhaps, after all, the depicted edifice is some similar-looking but different fortification elsewhere, one which I have yet to identify. Be that as it may, the surrounding legend reads ASS<sup>NE</sup> NAZ<sup>E</sup> ARMA DEL GENIO, signifying "Associazione Nazionale (dell') Arma del Genio," otherwise known as the A.N.A.G., or, in English, "The National Association of the Engineers' Corps."

Founded soon after the First World War, it opened an HQ in the Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome in 1925 (which would actually fit in with my initial interpretation of the obverse of the medal, as mentioned above, of course). Subsequently, though, its HQ was transferred to the Piazza Maresciallo Giardino (where the Museo del Genio is today). As the organization changed its name to "Il Reggimento Genio 'Mario Fiore'" in 1934 and again to "L'Associazione Nazionale Genieri e Trasmettitori d'Italia" (A.N.G.E.T.) in 1954, we can date the medal to between 1918 and 1934.

From 1931 the organization issued a monthly periodical called "Santa Barbara"—obviously on account of the saint's associations with fortifications and suchlike.

The medal is signed "JOHNSON" in tiny letters on the reverse (round the rim, just below the tower), presumably referring to the firm of Stefano Johnson of Milan (see L. Forrer, *Biographical Dictionary of Medalists etc* [1902-1929]), vol. 3, pp. 79-81 & vol. 7, pp. 481-6. I regret that I am unable to tell NI readers how the typically English

name of Johnson came to be inherited by an Italian firm of die-sinkers, but there it is, one presumes by marriage.

For a brief history of the A.N.A.G., see the Website of the A.N.G.E.T. at: <http://www.esercito.difesa.it/storia/anget.shtml>.



### **Madrid 1729 Pillar Dollar**

**Henry Christensen Inc.**

(Reprinted from Henry Christensen Inc., Mail Auction Sale, January 25, 1974)

In this column we hope to present, from time to time, a coin or coins which are not being offered for sale, but which we consider to be of sufficient interest and importance that the numismatic world should be made aware of their existence. The coins may be of any metal, of any size, from any epoch.

For this first column we have chosen the Madrid 1729 Pillar Dollar. This magnificent specimen is the original *columnario* pattern sent from Madrid to the New World to show the proposed designs for the new milled coinage. Totally ignored by the numismatic fraternity, this coin has been sitting, under multiple lock and key, in the Museum of the Mexico City Mint for the past two and a half centuries.

The coin is remarkable not only in that it predates the famous 1732 Pillar Dollar by three years, but also because it is the pattern piece for one of the world's great international trade coins. The pillar coinages of Mexico, Guatemala, Nuevo Reino, Lima, Potosi, Santiago, and the illustrious Copenhagen and Kongsberg imitations of 1771 and 1777 all owe their design to this single specimen.

The piece is dollar size and is struck in silver.



Editor's note: This coin is also illustrated and described in Frank Gilboy's *The Milled Columnarios of Central and South America, Spanish American Pillar Coinage, 1732 to 1772*, published in 1999.

*NI*

**An Interesting Overdate on a Russian Rouble of 1742**  
**Howard Ford, NI #LM90**

The photo below presents a Rouble from the first full year of the reign of Elisabeth Petrovna. It has been struck over an earlier Rouble which still shows the last three digits of its date so clearly that we know this to be a coin from 1741.



**Figure 1**

The previous Tsaritsa, Anna, died in 1740; there are no coins for her with the 1741 date. Although Elizabeth was on the throne in 1741, there would be no earthly reason why she would overstrike her own coins so soon after their mintage. These facts mean that the host coin for this overstrike is a very scarce Rouble of "Baby Ivan," who was Tsar Ivan VI for a few months in 1741, before his family was overthrown by supporters of Elisabeth. The infant was captured, thrown into prison, shifted from one place of captivity to another for twenty-three years, and finally murdered on orders of Catherine II once his true identity had been discovered by sympathetic officers who might have tried to restore him to the throne.

As is so frequently true in palace revolutions, the major parties were blood relatives. Elisabeth was a daughter of Peter the Great. Ivan was a great-grandson of Peter's older brother Ivan V, with whom Peter had been co-ruler for several years, from 1682-1696. When Elizabeth's party took power, she at first was going to send the baby and his mother back to Germany, where she had been the wife of a German prince. But Elizabeth changed her mind, sent troops after the carriage transporting them toward the border and safety, took the baby away from his mother, and ordered him to be locked away. Most of his jailers were totally unaware of his true identity. For twenty-three years in various prisons, he was "the nameless one." In 1762 the new czar, Peter III, learned of the real identity of the prisoner and visited him in his cell. Peter's wife, Catherine, also knew who the prisoner was. After she had overthrown her husband and had him killed, she left orders that if anyone ever tried to free the prisoner, his jailers should kill him immediately. Her orders were carried out in 1764 (<http://www.bartelby.com/65/iv/Ivan6.html>).

According to the Krause-Mishler catalog, in addition to Roubles, the only silver coins minted for Ivan were Half Roubles and 10 Kopecks. All three denominations were struck at the Moscow Mint. Only the two larger denominations were struck at St. Petersburg. Some copper coins were struck in 1741, but they do not show the name of a ruler. No gold coins were ever minted for Ivan VI.



**FYI**

**Dating on the Trade Coins of Czaritza Elisabeth  
Howard Ford, NI #LM90**

In the eighteenth century Russia minted Ducats and 2 Ducats as trade coins. On some of the productions of Czaritza Elisabeth, an unusual practice appeared in the dating of the coins. This did not occur immediately on her coinage. In her first issue, listed in the KM Catalog as C-30.1, which lasted from 1742 through 1748, only the year in which a coin had been minted was engraved on the reverse. But beginning in 1749, when her portrait underwent a design change, becoming larger in size and older in appearance, C-30.2, the month of issue was added after the year, and on most the day of the month when the coins were struck was also added. On the reverse, with the two-headed Eagle, the Ducats show a date of 1749 AUG 1. Some of the 1751 issues were dated MAR 13, but others simply say APRIL. Month and day both appear on the Ducats of 1752, NOVB 3, and 1753, FEBR 5. These were made in Moscow, but without a mintmark. In 1757 Ducats were made at St. Petersburg with a mintmark, C-30.3, and only the year is given. Some 2 Ducats were struck in 1749, but they had no indication of the month or day; these are listed as C-33.1. However, issues of 1751, C-33.2, are shown with dates of MAR 20 and APRIL.

A completely different reverse design was also issued for Elisabeth in the years we are studying. Some of the Ducats of 1749, C-31.1, show the date of AUG 1, but others, C-31.2, have neither the month nor day. Those of 1751 show only MART on some, MAR 13 on others, and just APRIL on the final issues of the year. Other coins of this type were made in 1752 on NOVB 3 and in 1753 on FEBR 5, the exact same days in which the Ducats with this design were struck. The 2 Ducats of 1749, C-34.1, showed only the year, but the issue of 1751, C-34.2, showed MAR 20 and APRIL.

Since the Ducats and 2 Ducats frequently show the same day of the month as the issue date for both denominations, it may be that the date does not indicate when all of the coins were made. Because some of the mintage figures are rather high, over 13,000 on March 13, 1751, it may be that the date simply represents the day when the production run began.

Although Peter III, Catherine II, and Paul I all issued Ducats, none of them followed Elizabeth in her dating practices. And none of these three later eighteenth-century rulers of Russia even issued 2 Ducats at all.

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## ***Kawase-gaisha* Notes**

**Mari Ohnuki, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan**



**Left: Obverse side of a Tokyo kawase-gaisha note (a gold note, worth one ryo)**

The note was issued in 1869 to supply funds necessary for the promotion of Japan's fledgling modern industry.



**Right: Obverse side of a Yokohama kawase-gaisha note (worth 10 Mexican dollars in nickel-silver coins)**

This is a dollar-denominated kawase-gaisha note, convertible to nickel-silver (Mexican silver dollar coins), issued for the convenience of Japanese merchants settling foreign trade payments. This type was issued only by the Yokohama Kawase-gaisha.

To establish a route for the supply of funds to foster its fledgling industry, the Meiji Government set up the Ministry of Commerce (*Tsushoshi*) in February 1869. With investment from traditional money exchangers and wealthy merchants it established *tsusho-gaisha* to supervise private trading companies and promote industrial development and *kawase-gaisha* (financial institutions playing the role of present-day banks) to lend money to the private trading companies and the *tsusho-gaisha*. *Kawase-gaisha* were established in Tokyo, Yokohama, Niigata, Saikyo (now Kyoto), Osaka, Kobe, Otsu, and Tsuruga and placed under the control of the Ministry of Commerce.

The name *kawase-gaisha* may have originated because *kawase-gaisha* were engaged in *kawase*, or clearing of bills (the principal mode of finance in those days), or because the government officials put in charge of finance were called *kawase-kata* and the wealthy merchants who played key roles in the establishment of *kawase-gaisha* were entrusted with the job.

The notes were issued for the first time by the Osaka Kawase-gaisha in September 1869 and came in a variety of denominations: 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100 ryo. These

large-denomination notes seem to have been issued to meet the demand for higher-denomination notes in Osaka and other districts where industrial growth was planned. Given the purpose of their issue and their large denominations, the notes were circulated mainly among merchants and a limited group of wealthy and powerful people rather than widely used in ordinary transactions. In addition to these notes, some smaller denominations were issued as expedients to relieve a shortage of smaller currency, and some dollar-denominated notes were issued for convenience in settling foreign trade transactions. Taking into account the purpose of their issue and their limited circulation, it is correct to regard kawase-gaisha notes as differing from today's banknotes, though they can still be considered "banknotes" in the sense that they were issued by financial institutions equivalent to banks.

Kawase-gaisha notes were convertible, and since there were no regulations on convertible reserves, all the issuing institutions began issuing them in excess. In about a year, the notes issued exceeded five million ryo. In response, the government implemented a policy requiring total convertibility of reserves, setting an upper limit on the total amount of money issued based on the issuer's *mimotokin* (the pooled investment of its owners) to control the volume of money issued.

The businesses of the issuers of these notes, the kawase-gaisha, began to deteriorate after lenders began having trouble recovering their loans, and by 1872 almost all of them had been dissolved. Nevertheless, they had paved the way for the establishment of private banks and played an important part in the birth of modern private financial institutions in Japan.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.



### ***Shin-shihei* or Meiji *Tsuho* Note**

**Mari Ohnuki, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan**

The issue in 1872 of Meiji *Tsuho* notes led to the standardization of the variety of bank notes in circulation until then.

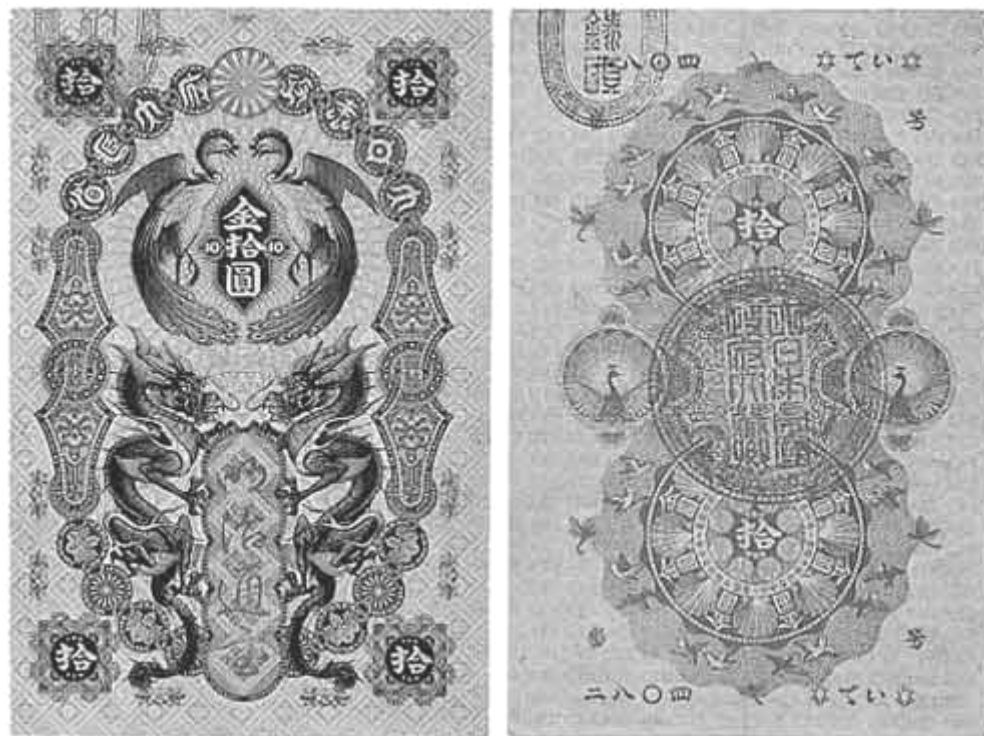
In May 1871, with a view to standardizing the monetary system, the Meiji Government promulgated the New Currency Act of 1871 and issued new gold, silver, and copper coins employing such decimal monetary units as yen, sen and rin.

In April of the next year, it also issued *Shin-shihei* notes (also called Meiji *Tsuho* notes) in 100 yen, 50 yen, 5 yen, 2 yen, 1 yen, half yen, 20 sen, and 10 sen denominations, with the aim of standardizing the various kinds of notes in circulation then.

The first notes issued in yen units by the Meiji Government were the Convertible Note of the Ministry of Finance and Convertible Note of the *Kaitakushi* (both of which were officially called *Shokin* (specie) Convertible Notes; the latter type was issued in order to raise funds for the development *kaitaku* of Hokkaido). These notes



were issued in order to make up for an insufficiency of national revenue. When the Shin-shihei notes were issued, however, there were such existing old notes as Local Paper Money, *Dajokan*, *Mimbusho*, and Kawase-gaisha notes; their monetary units were ryo, bu, and shu, and the purpose of their use and the areas of circulation and the people using the notes varied.



**10-yen Shin-shihei or Meiji Tsuho note, face and back**

Shin-shihei notes were therefore issued to standardize the notes in circulation: after being exchanged for new notes, the old ones were withdrawn. The exchange rate between Shin-shihei notes and *Dajokan*, *Mimbusho*, and Kawase-gaisha notes was 1 ryo to 1 yen (under the New Currency Act of 1871, a one-ryo old note was equivalent to a one-yen new note). Local Paper Money began to be exchanged for new ones around August 1872 at the exchange rate in effect on July 14, 1871, when the feudal domains were replaced by prefectures to facilitate central government control. In the next phase of the transition, Shokin Convertible Notes, which had just been issued in 1871, were exchanged for Shin-shihei notes.

Because Shin-shihei notes were issued not only as a replacement for old notes but also as a means of raising funds, they were issued in considerable volumes, but the increase in monetary volume was in close proportion to the expanding economy's pace of growth from the start. Furthermore, as the new government established its financial base, little by little it began winning the confidence of the people. As a result, Shin-shihei notes began circulating smoothly and over an ever wider area.

Like traditional notes, Shin-shihei notes were rectangular. The different denominations were distinguished from each other by their colors: red, blue, green, orange, etc. To prevent forgery, their design was much more intricate than that of



traditional notes: a chrysanthemum, a paulownia, cherry blossoms, a Chinese phoenix, and a dragon figured on the face (front), and a chrysanthemum, a peacock, a plover, a dragonfly, and a scallop shell on the reverse (back). In those days, however, such elaborate original plates were technically too difficult to create in Japan, and therefore the work was entrusted at first to a printing company in Germany (Dondorf Naumann). That's why Shin-shihei notes were popularly known as *Doitsu* Shihei or "German notes." But because the Shin-shihei notes printed in Germany were made mainly from hemp paper, they were of poor quality and were subject to severe wear and tear. From July 1877, they began to be printed in Japan using the German original plates but Japanese paper.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.

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### German New Guinea CNG



**GERMAN NEW GUINEA. The German New Guinea Company.** 1885-1914. AR Proof 5 Mark. Berlin mint. Dated 1894. Bird of Paradise on branch / NEU-GUINEA COMPAGNIE, 5 NEU-GUINEA MARK 1894, in wreath; A below. Jaeger 707; KM #7 (Papua New Guinea).

From the 1840's the island of New Guinea became the object of a three-way competition among the Netherlands, Germany, and Britain for control of this strategic territory. Bismarck annexed the north-eastern part of the island and the Bismarck Archipelago in 1884, and the following year incorporated the New Guinea Company to administer the new colony. The company was unable to implement a workable plan for developing the island, the hostile climate killing settlers and imported Chinese workers on the plantations, and the purported gold fields not panning out. By 1893 the administration of the colony was turned over to the imperial government, which authorized the striking in 1894 of the magnificent Bird of Paradise coinage, which is considered by many to be among the most beautiful of 19th century coins.

Australian troops seized the colony in 1914 at the onset of World War I, and German influence was never restored.

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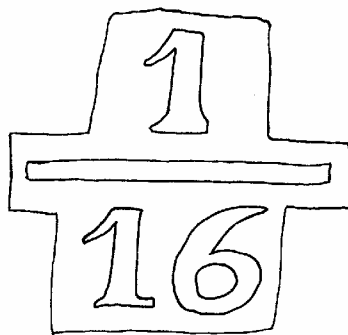
## **A Medio Octavo from Hermosillo, Mexico**

**Mark McMenamin, NI #2563**

The city of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico occurs in an area of abundant mineral resources. The Altar Desert of Sonora, for example, is known for its gold<sup>1</sup> and fossil deposits.<sup>2</sup> The region is also rich in history. The Sonoran town of Caborca, north of Hermosillo, was the site of an infamous battle in April 1857 between Mexican troops and the American filibuster (and former California state senator) Henry A. Crabb. Crabb's intent was to colonize Sonora. Most Sonorans viewed his band of adventurers as a hostile invasion, and they warned Crabb to stay away. Crabb evidently planned to annex Sonora as a new southern (read *slave*) state for the United States. As Crabb's men occupied the town of Caborca, the townsfolk sought refuge in, and barricaded, the town's church. The Mexicans rallied, and with the help of their Indian allies, defeated and later executed Crabb and the 100 or so men of his Gadsden or Arizona Colonization Company.<sup>3</sup> The outcome of this battle, combined with the looming American Civil War, effectively ended the loss by force of Mexican territory to the United States.

The Hermosillo mint of Sonora is Mexico's westernmost mint, and is in fact the westernmost mint of the entire Spanish Empire and/or its Spanish-speaking descendants. This mint was operative from 1831 to 1895. I report here the discovery of a previously unknown denomination from the Hermosillo mint, a copper coin revalued by an official countermark to serve as a 1/16 Real or Medio Octavo.

The host coin in question is a 1/4 real (cuarto or cuartilla, KM #364), struck at Hermosillo from 1831-36. Coins of this series bearing the dates 1834 and 1835 are known to have received a countermark (Figure 1) changing the coin's value from 1/4 real to 1/16 real. In describing these countermarked coins, Brunk<sup>4</sup> noted that their "issuer is unknown."



**Figure 1**

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<sup>1</sup> M. Suter, "The first geologic map of Sonora," *Boletín de la Sociedad Geológica Mexicana*, T. LIX, n. 1, 2007, pp. 1-7.

<sup>2</sup> M. McMenamin and H. D'Ambrosio, "La biota Ediacara de Sonora," *Geología del Noroeste*, vol. 2, n. 1, 1997, pp. 15-16.

<sup>3</sup> D. Lindsay, "Henry A. Crabb, Filibuster, and the *San Diego Herald*," *The Journal of San Diego History*, Winter 1973, vol. 19, n. 1.

<sup>4</sup> G. G. Brunk, *Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins* (2003), p. 92.

In 1859, after a hiatus of 23 years, the Hermosillo mint resumed the striking of copper coins. The coins struck at this time were the cuartilla (1/4 real, KM #365, a coin 33 millimeters in diameter) and the octavo real (1/8 real, KM #337, a coin 28 millimeters in diameter). The latter coin is listed in the Krause catalog<sup>5</sup> as being rare and as having been struck only during the year 1859.

Apparently no 1/16 real or medio octavos were struck at Hermosillo in 1859. The 1/4 real from the 1831-36 series (KM #364), however, was nicely sized for use as a 1/16 real denomination, as that coin is only 21 millimeters in diameter. This is in fact exactly the same diameter as the medio octavo struck at Jalisco in 1860-1861 (KM #316-7). I hypothesize here that someone at the Hermosillo mint hit on the idea of revaluing the older, smaller cuartos with a 1/16 counterstamp to complete an 1859 Hermosillo series of minor coin denominations. Hence, the complete copper series from the Hermosillo mint for 1859 would have been the 1/16 real (a 21 millimeter coin with its counterstamp); a 1/8 real (28 millimeters in diameter), and a 1/4 real (33 millimeters in diameter). The larger denomination was struck for five consecutive years.

I infer from this that the countermark was added to 1830s cuartos at the Hermosillo Mint in 1859, at the same time that the new octavo real (1/8) and cuartillas (1/4) were being struck. This presumes, then, that the Hermosillo mint itself issued the countermarked pieces. If this inference is correct, it thus represents the only time that this particular denomination was fashioned at Hermosillo, and it also represents, in geographic terms, the northernmost appearance of this denomination.



### Coin Quiz

Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

Here are some questions about *Unusual Money*.

1. He "wrote the book" about odd and curious money. Who is this brother to a former ANA governor? Bonus: name the governor.
2. In the mid 1980s, the Hamburg Mint issued two "hockey pucks," 5 oz silver coins that replicated Weimar Republic coins. Name them.
3. Lundy Island off Great Britain is famous for a pair of tokens that caused quite a stir back when they were issued. What were these pieces?
4. Katanga, a breakaway province of the Belgian Congo, issued two coins in 1961 that depicted a form of primitive money. What was this unusual item?

Answers found elsewhere in this edition.

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<sup>5</sup> Krause Publications, *Twenty-third Edition, Standard Catalog of World Coins* (1996).

## Trade Coins of the Gold Coast

Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles



(Image not actual size)

Gold Coast (African). George III, 1760-1820. One Ackey. 13.65 g, reeded edge. Laureate head of king right, beneath neck, "1 ACKEY TRADE." **Reverse:** Arms of The Company of Merchants Trading to Africa: divided oval cartouche bearing cornucopia, beehive, and sailing ship left, the whole surmounted by elephant with bannered turret; native supporters on either side, one with feathered crown and holding bow, the other with elephant shin headdress and holding scorpion (?), mask below; "FREE TRADE TO AFRICA BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1750."

The Royal Africa Company was reorganized in 1750 by act of parliament and became "The Company of Merchants Trading to Africa" for the purpose of trade with the African coast, and in 1796 the company struck a series of silver coins for use in the Gold Coast. The trading unit was called an "Ackey," probably named after a large ethnic group called the Akan, who had come into prominence in the previous century. They were the main miners and purveyors of gold in the Ivory Coast and Ghana area, with much of their commerce, and even their legal payments, actually being based on a gold standard.

This trade coin series consisted of the ackey, a half and a quarter ackey, plus a one takoe, or eighth ackey. In 1818 the design was altered to bear the head of George III on the obverse with his titles around.

The company that previously held the English monopoly, the Royal Africa Company, became a slave trading company, and was headquartered at Cape Coast Castle (the former Swedish settlement/fort of Carolusborg). By means of a policy of protected free trade this company was intended to greatly expand England's African commerce. However, different to the previously chartered entity, the Company of Merchants was not allowed to trade in slaves as a corporate entity, but its officers and servants could engage in such enterprise as private individuals. Thus, while not trafficking in slaves per se, the Company's job basically evolved into maintaining a coastal trading infrastructure which on the one hand furthered its trading capabilities but on the other could still be utilized by English slavers.

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## Wedding Medal for Luis I of Spain & Louise Elisabeth of Orleans

Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

For collectors of Spanish and Spanish American coins of the "modern" era, AD 1500 and forward, Luis I is one of the tougher kings to get. This is because he was king for only seven months. Calicó & Trigo, in their catalog *Numismatica Española...1474-1998* (1998) list 47 entries for coins of Luis I, whereas for his father, Philip V, they list 1753 entries.

The coins from Spanish America are eagerly sought after by cob collectors. A choice example of a Luis I cob coin (from Goldbergs' "Millenia" auction of 26 May 2008) is illustrated at the end of this article.

Below is a medal commemorating the marriage of Luis I.



**Obv: Bust of Philippe II right. With legend around, "PHILIPPVS●AVRELIANSIVM●DVX●REGENS●." Rev: Clasped hands over altar. Legend above, "IVNXIT●MVTVO●CVM●FOEDERE●GENTES●." Legend below, "LVD●I●HISP●REG●ET●MAR●LVD●ET●AVREL●CONNVBIVM●M●D●CC●XXI." Bronze, 44 mm, 39.68 g.**

Medal issued by Philippe II of Orléans, Duke of Orléans and regent of France for Louis XV. Philippe was regent until the king reached the age of majority, thirteen, in 1723. During the regency, 1715-23, Philippe exercised absolute power in France.

In 1720, King Philip V of Spain, of the house of Bourbon, wanting to make peace with France proposed a double marriage: his three-year-old daughter, Mariana Victoria, would marry the fifteen-year-old Louis XV, and his son and heir, Louis, would marry one of the Regent's daughters. Mariana Victoria ultimately was passed over and Louis XV married Maria Leszczyńska of Poland.

By that time, Louise Elisabeth and her sister Philippine of Orléans were the Regent's only unmarried daughters. It was later decided that these two daughters would marry two *Infantes* (princes) of Spain.

Therefore, in 1721, at just twelve years of age, Louise Elisabeth was married by Proxy in Paris in November. She and her younger sister left for Madrid. Despite a cold reception from the Spanish royal family, especially by Elizabeth of Parma, her future husband's stepmother, she married Louis of Spain on 20 January 1722 at Lerma. The dowry of this marriage was an enormous 4 million Livres.

On January 15, 1724, an emotionally unstable Philip V abdicated in favor of his eldest son, who became King Louis I of Spain. Louise Elisabeth became Queen, but after only seven months, Louis died of smallpox. Because he died without an heir, his father became the king once again. She stayed in Madrid for some time after the death of her husband but the Spanish court was unkind and malicious towards the lonely teenage widow ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise\\_Elisabeth\\_of\\_Orl%C3%A9ans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise_Elisabeth_of_Orl%C3%A9ans)).

As a side note, the city of New Orleans, Louisiana is named for Duke Philippe of Orléans ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Orleans,\\_Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Orleans,_Louisiana)).



Potosí, Luis I Eight Reals 1727Y

**Obv:** Crowned columns (Pillars of Hercules), ocean waves below and crown above. The central field laid out in tic-tac-toe fashion. Top row has the mintmark "P" (Potosí), 8 (eight reals) and "Y" (assayer Diego de Ybarbouru). The middle row has "PLVSVLTRA" which is the motto of Charles I of Spain. The bottom row has "Y" (assayer again), the date 727 and "P" (Potosí again). The peripheral legend "•POTOSI•ANO•1727•ELPE." **Rev:** Cross with Castile and Leon in the four quadrants. Mintmark "P" left and assayer "Y" right. At the bottom of the cross is the date, (1)727 and at the top the numeral 8 for eight reals. The peripheral legend "•LVIS•PR•D••G•HISPANIAR•"

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**Seleukid Empire**  
**Antiochos IV as Zeus**  
**CNG**



SELEUKID KINGS of SYRIA. Antiochos IV Epiphanes. 175-164 BC. AR Tetradrachm (16.61 g). Antioch mint. Struck 169-164 BC. Laureate head of Zeus right with the features of Antiochos / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ, Zeus Nikephoros seated left, with Nike standing right crowning Zeus with laurel wreath. Le Rider, *Antioche*, Series IIIA, 226-227 (A22/P160); Mørkholm Series III, 14 (A23/P95); SMA 63; SNG Spaer 1003; Houghton 106-107; Boston MFA 2165 (same dies); Dewing 2584 (same obv. die); Gulbenkian 1039 (same obv. die).

Newell (SMA, p. 30) identifies the tetradrachms with the head of Zeus on the obverse as a special issue for the festival of Daphne. His theory depends heavily on the story that Antiochos IV erected a copy of the celebrated Phidian cult statue at Olympia within the temple of Apollo at Daphne. But this story is now in disrepute (see Lacroix, *BCH LVVIII*, pp. 165-6). More recent scholarship suggests that this special issue, which introduces to his coinage the epithet Νικηφόρου, was struck to commemorate Antiochos' victorious return to Antioch following the conclusion of his second Egyptian campaign.

The heads of Zeus on these tetradrachms are of two types: one of them sharp-featured and slightly archaic; the other, as here, softer and apparently with the features of Antiochos himself. A number of scholars have taken this as evidence that Antiochos identified himself with Zeus. However, Mørkholm (pp. 58-61), followed by Houghton (*JPGMJ* 10, p. 157), argues that the resemblance is the result of the tastes or habits of the engravers. Mørkholm furthermore contends that the resemblance of the Apollo heads as well disqualifies the notion of a divine identification. But this is to overlook the essentially syncretic nature of divine kingship, as is symbolized iconographically by coin portraits of Ptolemy III with attributes of three gods. In this context it should also be recalled that Antiochos IV introduced the radiate diadem to Seleukid coinage, a symbol of royal apotheosis that alludes to Helios, and added ΕΠΙΦΑΝΗΣ, "God Manifest," to his royal titles.

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## **Another Way of Collecting**

**Bill Mullan, NI #1040**

One of the best things about giving coins away at a school fair is when someone gives me some coins at a school fair.

I don't really give the coins away; I sell coins from my stock of foreign coins and give all the income to the school. Since it costs me about five cents to put a coin in a 2×2 and label it I have a hard time meeting the demand for the kind of coins I sell for five cents. Even when I buy bulk coins by the pound I don't get enough higher priced coins to let me think some of them cost me nothing. That's where gift coins come in.

This latest gift was 828 coins that I calculate I will sell for \$177.15. The coins had been left to a lady as part of an estate. As I went through them I tried to imagine (as I usually do) what sort of person collected them. In this case, because of the dates and mix of the coins, I imagined that the initial coins were accumulated by someone in the armed forces that invaded France from the south and that the person stayed in the service after World War II serving in Italy and Spain. The person, I guessed, made side trips to other European Countries during that time and then traveled to South America and the Far East after retiring.

But that is not the subject of this article. What was most intriguing was that 127 of the coins had been stored separately in a plastic bag. All of the coins were a "1" denomination.

I have encountered people who collect the smallest denomination of each nation's coins, and I once met a man who collected Yeoman 1 of each nation (he was having trouble finding Y1 from Kiau Chau) but I had never seen a collection of coins all of 1 denomination. The coins from Austria were one schilling (no current one groschen was being made); the coins from Spain were one peseta (no one centimo coin since 1913); the coins of Yugoslavia were all one dinar (lowest denomination coin from Yugoslavia at the time was the 5 para) and the coin from Hong Kong was one dollar.

It seemed a strange way to form a collection, one that I had never heard of before.

I went to the lady who contributed the coins to give her the final tally and return one of her donated coins. I asked about the source of the coins as well. I was pretty close, I found out that the original owner of the coins was in the Foreign Service of the United States. He served in France as it was freed from German occupation and did a tour in Italy as well, but the Spanish coin came from vacation trips. He also served in the Far East for a time and since his wife was from South America they visited there on several occasions.

*Continued on page 202*

### **Quiz Answers**

1. Charles Opitz, brother of Nancy Wilson (and brother-in-law to ANA past president John Wilson).
2. Graf Zeppelin and Bremerhaven.
3. Puffin.
4. The "Katanga Cross," a copper ingot weighing several pounds.



## **Coins of England**

**(Continued from October 1975 *NI Bulletin*)**

(Reprinted from *The Banker's Magazine*, 1847-8, which was extracted from a then recent London publication, entitled "The Coins of England," containing two hundred and twenty-seven engraved facsimiles of coins from the earliest ages to 1846.)

### **CHARLES II, 1660 to 1684** (*sic*)

On his accession in the year 1660, there were issued silver coins, from half crowns downwards, with the exception of groats and quarter shillings, which were soon after added. They were, with a view perhaps of returning to the extreme of orthodoxy, much like the earliest of his father's coins, with the old shield traversed by the cross fleurie, and the same mottos. The new improvements of the mill and screw were also abandoned, and the coins were again produced by the old hammer process.

The first issue was without numerals indicating the value, or inner circle; a second issue had the numerals, but still no inner circle; but in 1661 the respective values were ordered to be stamped on each, and these new coins had also the inner circle or line within the legend, absent generally in the first. These first silver coins of Charles II may be said to be the last of our series which represent the sovereign in the costume of the day. Some have the lace, collar over armor, and others over an ermine robe, and all are crowned, also for the last time; no subsequent English coin bears a "crowned head," in a literal sense.

In 1662 the previously mentioned Peter Blondeau was formally engaged to direct the mint upon the new principle of mill and screw, and a competition for engraving the dies was entered into between the celebrated Simon, who had engraved the dies for the Protector's last coins, and John Roeter of Antwerp, which was unfairly decided in favor of Rueter. Simon afterwards produced a pattern crown, most exquisitely engraved, which is considered quite a model of the art of that or even any period, and very superior to any contemporary work of the class, if we except his own previous works, the busts of Cromwell on the crowns and half crowns. On the edge of this famous coin is inscribed his petition to the king against the previous unjust decision, which was of course unheeded. The petition runs, "Thomas Simon most humbly prays your majesty to compare this his trial piece with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embossed, more gracefully ordered, and more accurately engraved, to relieve him."

In 1663 the first issue of the improved milled coinage took place, consisting of crowns, half crowns, and half shillings, very handsomely and well executed, having the king's head laureated, and the shoulders mantled in the conventional Roman style to the left, contrary to the preceding coins, with "Carolus II, Dei Gratia." On the reverse, four shields forming a cross, having the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with linked C's in the angles, the star of the garter in the centre, and around, the king's titles, and the date. The crowns and half crowns have "*Deus et tutamen*" on the edge, an invention, like the milled notching or graining, to prevent clipping; this motto, Evelyn says, was suggested by himself to the maker to intimate that it was at once an ornament and a protection to the coin. The shillings and sixpences were

milled at the edge, at first by an upright notching, and afterwards, by an oblique one; some have on the edges the year of the reign written, as "Anno Regni XVIII"; others written as "TRICESIMO SEXTO": by which number it will be seen that the reign was calculated from the death of Charles I, leaving out the commonwealth. The portrait style, in the costume of the day above alluded to, was now finally abandoned, the first and second issue of Charles being the latest examples. The feeling of the new designs was doubtless taken from the designs of Simon, who had previously introduced it in the busts of the Protector.

This conventional Roman style was founded in France about the reign of Louis XIII, and in matters of taste France began very sensibly, though slowly, to influence the taste in England. The disposition of the four shields in the form of a cross, that extremely pleasing device, which continued to George III, was also, I have no doubt, an idea of Simons, judging from early patterns of his, in which it is imperfectly shadowed out. The smaller coins also of this issue were milled, but retained the old types. Soon after, however, the small coins were assimilated in style, the groat being distinguished by four linked C's, the three penny piece by three, the two penny piece by two, and a penny by one; and silver half pennies were no longer coined. Coins below sixpence, after this introduction of the mill, were only struck for Maundy money, and were struck to conform to the old custom of distributing the royal bounty on Holy or Maundy Thursday; a white bag was given to a certain number of poor persons containing as many coins as the king numbered in years. The gold coins were not various; the first had the head, laureated in the Roman style, with the old shield on the reverse, the next had the head similar, but the oval shield on the reverse. The reverses of both had the motto "*Florent concordia regna.*" There were twenty shillings, ten, and five. In 1664 a gold coinage by the new process was issued, having the bust undraped, as in the Cromwell gold pieces, and the reverse, four crowned shields, bearing the arms of England, etc., with scepters in the angles; this coinage consisted of five pound pieces, forty shilling pieces, guineas (now for the first time so called from being made from gold brought from Guinea by the African company), and half guineas. Those coined of the gold imported by the African company had a small elephant under the bust of the king; this was done as an encouragement to the importation of gold. The term guinea for a twenty shilling piece afterwards continued to the reign of George III, without reference to the source of the gold.

It was determined at the beginning of this reign, the English gold coin being still above the value of those of other nations, to increase their nominal value, and the unit of twenty shillings was now raised to twenty-two shillings, and other coins in proportion, and the new coinage made to correspond; that is to say, the pound weight of gold was coined into as many more pieces of twenty shillings and ten shillings respectively as should make them of the same relative value as the raised units, etc. In 1670 the weight of the gold coins was again reduced, the pound of gold (22 carats fine) being coined into £44, 10s. At the end of this reign an act was passed, with the view of encouraging the bringing of bullion to the mint, removing all charges upon coinage, for private individuals; the state undertaking to be at the whole expense, and the full weight of bullion was to be returned in coin without any reduction. But to defray the expenses incurred, a duty on foreign wines, vinegar, etc. was levied.

It is said that Charles II, was much displeased with the colonists in Massachusetts on account of their coining money, which he considered a breach of his prerogative, and threatened to Sir Thomas Temple that they should be punished. Upon which Sir Thomas took some of the pieces from his pocket to show the king, on the reverse of which was a pine tree, one of that species of pine common in the colony that grows flat and bushy at the top like the Italian pine. The king asked what tree it was, upon which Sir Thomas Temple told him that of course it was the royal oak, which had preserved his majesty's life; upon which the king said no more of punishment, but laughing, called them "honest dogs."

**On the Copper Coinage.** Copper being first issued in bulk in this reign, this appears the proper place to give a slight sketch of the events which led to its adoption. As early as the reign of Henry VII and VIII, we learn from an incidental passage in Erasmus, that leaden tokens of low value were in use, though whether sanctioned by the government or not is unknown. Similar tokens were, however, in use without the sanction of government in the reign of Elizabeth. They were called pledges or tokens, passing as half pennies and farthings, being issued, for convenience, by grocers, vintners, etc., who felt the great want of small change. On taking the matter into consideration, Elizabeth decreed that they should henceforward only be made by her, and only of pure copper, and that the half penny should weigh 16 grs (grains) and the farthings 7 grs. It is supposed, however, that neither were issued, though patterns exist. It was probably on the failure of this scheme that the queen granted to the city of Bristol the privilege to coin tokens to circulate in that city and ten miles round. James abolished (nominally) all leaden tokens of private traders, and issued a small quantity of copper farthings of his own mint; but there was no second issue and the private tokens again prevailed; and in the troubled reign of his son they doubtless increased, as they were a source of large profit to the small greedy trader.

During the time of the commonwealth, Cromwell endeavored to put down this fraudulent money, by an efficient coinage of copper, of which specimens are shown in the plate referring to that period; he died, however, before carrying out his purpose, so that the excellent devices for his projected coinage of farthings remain as mere patterns, and it was not till long after the restoration that copper was first issued in bulk. At first a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Armstrong, to coin farthings of copper for twenty-one years. For this privilege he was to pay the sum of £16, 13s. 4d. per annum. He was to issue 2ls. of farthings for 20s. of silver, and take them back at the same rate. In 1665 half pence of the royal mint were issued in small quantities; some say only patterns were done: they have the king's head, and "Carolus a Carolo"; the reverse, Britannia, with "*quatuor maria vindico*," alluding to the empire of the sea, so often claimed by our sovereigns. The figure of Britannia is very graceful, and beautifully executed. It is said to be a portrait of the beautiful Frances Stuart. The general character of the device was, of course, suggested by the Britannia of some of the Roman coins relating to Britain; but it has an original character of its own, and all the details of face, figure, and drapery, are quite original; the drapery falling off the shoulder, is very graceful, and the whole is executed in an elegant feeling. The farthing is not quite so elegant, and has one leg bare; the specimen is the half penny, showing the obverse only. These farthings were called Lord Lucas' farthings, from the circumstance of his making a speech against the state of the currency in the

presence of the king; first alluding to the total disappearance of the commonwealth coins, which, from the form of the two joining shields, were called breeches; "a fit name", says Lord Lucas, "for the coins of the Rump"; who then proceeds to state that he sees no probability of their being replaced, "unless it be by copper farthings, and this is the metal, according to the inscription on it, which is to vindicate the dominion of the four seas." The half pence and farthings positively issued in 1665, the first real copper coinage, were the same as the patterns above alluded to, with the exception of having the simple motto of "Britannia" on the reverse, instead of the one ridiculed by Lord Lucas; and these coins being of the intrinsic value that they were issued for, nearly superseded the private tokens, which no law had been able to put down. But so great was their convenience and the profit upon their issue, that they still continued for sometime, notwithstanding stringent enactments against them. Tin farthings, with a stud of copper in them, to render their imitation difficult, were also issued at the end of this reign, having on the edge, "*Nummorum famulus*."

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*Continued from page 198*

She also explained the situation behind the "new way of collecting." She had been teaching handicapped children and one day she found herself with two of them on her hands at the same time. Trying to think of a "make-work" task that would keep one child busy while teaching the others, she remembered the tin can of coins that she had inherited. She gave the 828 coins, in many different shapes and sizes from sixty-five countries, to the child and asked her to sort them. Unlike most children who would group the coins by country she followed her own scheme. The thirteen one cent coins from Sierra Leone went into the same pile as all the one cent coins from Trinidad & Tobago! The child was sorting out the twos when it came time for her lesson, so the ones went into a bag and there they stayed until I found them years later.

The coin I returned to her? She reserved the right to retain any valuable coins that were in the mix, and after explaining that my first look at the coins made me think that they were all mundane coins in well-worn condition I assured her that I would give any expensive coins back to her. The ones I would keep were just the kind I was looking for and not the kind that would make her fortune.

On closer inspection the only French 50 franc coin turned out to be dated 1958, catalog value about \$75.00. I figure that giving that coin back to her gave her confidence in my honesty and may over the long run bring me more of the five cent type coins that I need to keep me busy at my hobby.

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